

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 40, NO. 10
November 1985

52 East 41 Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 679-9650

Up-and-Coming

Thursday, Nov. 7, Noon—First Thursday Luncheon, Edward R. Murrow Room, with Parade Magazine Senior Editor Herbert Kupferberg. Reserve with Hester Hensell, 867-9538 or Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Monday, Nov. 11, 5:30 p.m.—Champagne Tasting, Bogart Room. Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Book Night with Richard Whelan and Cornell Capa, Bogart Room. Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Thursday, Dec. 5, Noon—First Thursday Luncheon, Edward R. Murrow Room, with correspondent Henry Cassidy. Reserve with Hester Hensell, 867-9538 or Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.—OPC Christmas Party, in Rumford Hall, Door Prizes, Grab Bag (bring gift under \$5 for it), Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar. Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

Capa Chroniclers At OPC Book Night

Robert Capa's biographer and his brother will discuss two new books on the life and photos of the famed photographer Nov. 19 at the season's third OPC Book Night.

Richard Whelan, author of a biography of Capa's life, and Cornell Capa, who co-edited with Whelan a book of 260 images by Robert Capa, will discuss his life, work and the development of the two books just published by Knopf.

Capa's 40 years included the coverage of five wars: the Spanish Civil War, the Japanese invasion of China, World War II, the Israeli War for Independence and the French Indochina War. The biography is the first telling of his life from his native Budapest to youthful adventures in Berlin and Paris and his later life as a photojournalist.

See Page 4

Axthelm Wows 'em, Breslin Misses 'em

Newsweek columnist Pete Axthelm showed OPCers he can make just about any topic as fascinating in the spoken word as he does in print.

Sorry to report Jimmy Breslin of *The New York Daily News* missed his joint bill appearance with Axthelm at the OPC book night Oct. 8, but Pete made up for that with ease, telling as much about Jimmy as about his own experiences. In fact, the two careers have been intertwined—although that may be the wrong word for it.

Pix of Children, A Mother's View



Erika Stone

Erika Stone some years ago turned from work as an award-winning newsphoto stringer for *Time*, *Der Spiegel* and others, to devote herself to a specialty—photographing children.

Erika Stone, whose photos of children are on exhibit in the club through November, found her specialty following the birth of her two sons.

Her photos of children have appeared in such magazines as *Parents*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Scholastic*, *Baby Talk*, *Practical Psychology*, *Journal of Maternal Childcare*, *Small World* and *Life*. She has worked for many of the major book publishers and also illustrated three juvenile books. She conceived and produced a fourth.

Erika Stone has been winning prestigious photo awards since she was a teenager.

Pete goes back with Jimmy to *New York Herald Tribune* days.

As a student, Axthelm had done some legwork for Breslin and called him about possibilities of getting on *The Trib* full time to the end that Breslin helped get him a racing writer's job when one opened up. But when he got the job, Pete said, there was some question about his having had enough background in racing.

"So Jimmy told everyone on the paper I was the son of a racetrack trainer," Axthelm said, to the end that he had the time to prove his stuff and thus began a glorious career.

See Page 2

Shana Alexander's Plea for Harris

Most authors with a hot new book on the market devote their lecturing to their book, right? Not Shana Alexander.

Ms. Alexander did tell about her book, *Nutcracker*, (Doubleday; \$17.95), but she devoted almost as much time in her OPC Book Night appearance Sept. 26 to a plea for justice for Jean Harris.

Ms. Alexander called the 15-year to life sentence without possibility of parole which Ms. Harris is serving "a true miscarriage of justice."

She called Ms. Harris' murder conviction for the slaying of Dr. Herbert Tarnauer, in part, the result of a lawyer who insisted on her pleading innocent to murder instead of a manslaughter plea bargain that would have brought her release in two years.

See Page 2

Hutchins Warns Book Biz in Danger

John Hutchins, noted book critic, member of the editorial board of the *Book of the Month Club*, says book publishing is in a sorry state despite some bright spots amid his list of "forbidding facts."

Hutchins regaled with tales of literary lights an overflow audience at the first of the OPC First Thursday Luncheons Oct. 3.

See Page 3

Axthelm—

From Page 1

For those who did attend, Jimmy did show, but too late to go on, having gotten the times mixed up. On other topics Axthelm said:

- **Red Smith**, "the best of sportswriters, he got his Pulitzer 30 years too late." Smith also helped give Axthelm his start, inviting him to his home to go over his copy with him and give him some tips.
 - **Howard Cosell**: "I've just finished his latest book, the demented rantings of a mean-spirited old man." (Howard, it was a joke.)
 - **Being a columnist** "definitely beats working."
 - **The Alamo** "is much to be admired. It is the only American monument, I think, that doesn't have a theme park. But, you know, it's downtown, a lot of hookers within a block of it. I asked one if she'd ever been in it. 'Wotr you,' she said, 'some kind of John Wayne freak?'"
 - **More Breslin**: "Now that Breslin's writing about abolishing boxing, I bet he doesn't tell anybody about when he worked parttime as a boxing writer for the old *Journal-American* to make ends meet."
 - **Patty Hearst**: "I understand Shana Alexander spoke the other night about the injustice she felt has been done to Jean Harris. Well I think Patty Hearst was done on tremendous injustice. I don't think anyone could withstand the brainwashing she was subjected to."
 - **Olympics**: "I see NBC has acquired rights to the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Reminds me of the student shootings before the Mexico Olympics when the Neanderthal head of the press room spread the word I was responsible."
- Looking back, we had the massacre of the Israelis in '72 at Munich, bankruptcy of the Montreal Olympics in '76, Moscow's private games in '80. But Los Angeles did pull it off in '84."
- **Homeless**: "Newsweek really made a tremendous effort on the '84 Olympics. I went to a shelter for the homeless, said to have been set up to get them off the streets during the games... There seemed to be designated street people that would talk to the press. One I talked to said, 'but I was interviewed by Newsweek yesterday'... We even double-teamed the same derelict."
 - **Drugs in sports**: The best enforcement to combat it in pro sports could be the Mafia... If the point spread moves, the mob knows it. They're the last ones to want a game to be fixed and have some kind of crazy point spread... At the college level, we can start dealing with the problem by getting the players to go to class."

Peoplers

John Koehler, ex-correspondent in Europe, having retired as AP assistant general manager and managing director, World Services Division, has set up Stamford, Conn., based consulting firm, Koehler International Ltd.; advises he'll be working abroad with USIA communications project, Interpol, Vatican Commission for Social Communications.

Wes Pedersen is thrice blessed with his third consecutive "Gold Circle Award" from the American Society of Association Executives. Pedersen, communications-public relations director of Washington-based Public Affairs Council, writes this year's award was for his communication program for the council.

Dr. Henry Singer is having great fun and success doing Op-Ed pieces on reader grabber subjects. Before takeoff on six week lecture-workshop to Frankfurt, Vienna, Budapest, Delhi, Hong Kong, Shanghai with assignments for Modern Asia and China Business Review, he passed us copies of his Op-Eders: New York Times piece on confronting life after Social Security begins; Fairfield County Advocate piece on miseries of visiting the Big Apple from suburbia.

Josephine Lyons note-ifies she's editing a film on her three-week trip to China for the Robert Capa exhibit opening in Beijing. Made the trip with the International Photography Center group.

Ruth Biemiller has three recipes in Green Thumb Harvest (Random House) cookbook of the Hamptons. Congratulates all on "stunning Bulletin" for October. Is just back from 50th reunion, class of '35, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, where, as class historian, she presented new, revised history—"tolerably well received."

Florence S. Richards' tragic tale: Evacuated by fire truck from flooded Boca Ciega Bay home, Gulfport, Fla, she returned after two days in shelter to find looters made off with objets d'art acquired during her 18 years in Japan and Korea and others from elsewhere in Asia collected by her late brother during his Foreign Service career. They took her jewelry, too.

Rosalind Massow making TV-radio interview rounds promoting her new book, *Travel Easy, The Practical Guide for People Over 50*, published by American Association for Retired Persons; her media tour sponsored by National Car Rental. Reader response includes praise for book's suggestions for dealing with health upsets while traveling.

Alexander—

From Page 1

She said a defense that Ms. Harris' addiction to amphetamines prescribed for her over a period of years may have resulted in psychosis, contributing to her condition at the time of the slaying of Dr. Tarnauer, had never been fully made.

"We've got her a new lawyer now and there is the prospect of new legal moves," she said. But she believes the difficulty has been "that judges are loath to overrule other judges."

And, she said, "You can't reverse a jury—the almighty Anglo-Saxon jury is God. Something's got to be done to correct that."

She contrasted Ms. Harris' sentence with that of socially prominent Frances Schreuder, subject of *Nutcracker*, who is serving 12 years to life for getting her son to kill her multi-millionaire father in 1978. Mrs. Schreuder, whom she called "clearly insane," may soon be considered for parole or transfer to a mental institution.

Of that book, she said, "When you start a book, you live with these people for however long it takes to write the book."

She became so involved in the Schreuder story, she said, she learned far more about the family members' lives than she might have liked to. She termed their lives "a horror story."

"Frankly," she said, "I'm glad it's over."

In contrast, she said Ms. Harris' admirable achievements as an educator today is followed by her success in aiding her fellow inmates.

She talked at some length about the work Ms. Harris is doing in prison, having set up a system in which pregnant inmates are encouraged to have their children and are enabled to see their children on a regular basis at a day care center operated in the prison.

Operation of the center was made possible by Ms. Harris' work with Catholic Charities to arrange transportation to the Bedford Hills, N.Y., detention center and to provide nearby housing-foster care for the children for three-week periods.

She said this had done a great deal in the cause of rehabilitation; that these inmates have come to know "how important they are in the lives of their own children," with more now wanting to keep their children on their release from prison.

She said one reason for her book on the Schreuder murder was to show the plight of death row inmates.

Books about most inmates don't get written because they have ordinary lives.

"There isn't any glamour. There is only horror."

"If you see the lives of all the people on death row," she said, "you will find those people were just as violently abused as Frances and children."

Henry Cassidy will speak Dec. 5 and we'll report next month on Parade Senior Editor Herbert Kupferberg's appearance Nov. 7.

Hutchins talked of his 15 years as New York Herald Tribune book reviewer and, since 1963, as a member of the BOM editorial board. He warned of critical dangers to the quality of reading in America today.

"All in all," he said, "the publishing business is having a serious time. Things are bad for publishers, booksellers and authors right now."

He gave these reasons:

- "Too many books are being published—some 50,000 annually.
- Relatively few make a substantial profit.
- 50 per cent of adult Americans don't read any book at all in a given year. "We are not a nation of readers.
- A 200,000-copy book sale is celebrated in a nation of 240 million. Television is one reason.
- Conglomerates are buying up independent publishing houses, controlling thousands of book stores, stressing only ostensible best sellers.
- Fewer outlets for the offbeat, the controversial or the little-known talented writer is the result.
- Even the huge paperback houses are in some trouble.
- Many established authors' incomes are only about \$10,000 a year. They do other work to get by.

Another regret, he said, is that there are few fine publishing house editors today. Recalling the greats of the past, he told this story about Maxwell Perkins:

"A hopeful young lady with a sizeable manuscript..." found her way into Perkins' office at Scribner's and asked, "How long should a novel be?"

"It all depends," responded the courteous, patient Perkins, citing Margaret Mitchell's million-word "Gone With the Wind" and Willa Cather's 40,000-word "A Lost Lady."

"Then," she said, "I have finished my novel."

Of the state of book publishing, Hutchins said, "Despite the adversity of which I have spoken, there have been welcome developments." He hailed the arrival of quality paperbacks; the university presses that print works commercial houses wouldn't; the advent of small, independent publishing houses and of specialized book clubs.

"And our good writers go on writing," he said.

His talk sparkled with anecdotes. He came to the BOM board with apprehension, in awe of Clifton Fadiman, New Yorker literary critic, Simon & Schuster editor and Information Please emcee; of lecturer-drama critic John Mason Brown, Columbia classics professor Gilbert

OPC Bulletin Polls Correspondents on Matters of Concern

The OPC Bulletin, in a moment of delirium, has polled its far-flung correspondents on matters of concern to those of us who might—or might not—wish they were there.

We are thankful to John Rigos, Athens; Karl Koch, Munich; Bernard Lovell, Geneva; Joe Grigg and Michael Johnson, both London, for flinging back these first returns:

Best buy

Geneva: U.S. canned Del Monte corn, only can of anything less than \$1.

London: Theater tickets \$7, concert seats, Rose's Lime Juice, about half U.S. price.

Munich: Restaurant meals.

Athens: Furs and wool sweaters.

Where correspondents hang out

London: Vino's, The Savoy, Connaught, Brown's Hotel; Geneva: UN Press Bar; Munich: Any and all; Athens: The Seventeen and Orfanides.

Cost of scotch on rocks

London: \$2.25 to \$3.15, it varies; Athens: \$2.50; Munich: \$3; Geneva: \$4.50 Black Label, others \$4.

Most favored drink

Athens: Ouzo, beer; Munich: beer; Geneva: Swiss wines, Feldschlosschen beer; London: Scotch and soda or on-the-rocks.

We'll report later from these and other foreign capitals on one liners making the rounds, hottest catch or buzz words, biggest lifestyle problems, most talked about persons, most costly items and what they're saying about Americans. Contributions welcome.

Hightet and others but discovered it was "a jolly little group"—what another member, Paul Horgan, called, "the most exclusive lunch club in town."

"The sentimentalists among us at BOM," he said, "are now inclined to wish that there existed something like that excitement and concern about writing for its own sake that was a feature of the 1920s and '30s...and even rejection slips had a touch of their own."

H.L. Mencken at *The American Mercury*, he said, couldn't bring himself to tell an author a manuscript was awful and had his secretary send a note reading:

"Mr. Mencken has just entered a Trappist monastery in Kentucky and left word that no mail was to be forwarded. The enclosed is therefore returned for your archives."

Dispatches

Ex-POWs Tour Poland

OPC'er S.P. Fay Jr. was the only Yank among 60 members of the Ex-POW Organization of Great Britain who this summer toured the German WWII prison camps in which they were held in Poland.

Fay quotes one of them, Stanley Rayner, a poet:

*"Captured in our prime,
tormented in that cage of
endless time."*

The group sailed from England to Gdynia where they were welcomed by former Polish resistance fighters. There were subsequent ceremonies covered by Polish TV-radio. Fay says "many Poles wept openly" during address by the group's leader, Frank Moore, honoring resistance heroine Maria Derz, who helped RAF fliers escape.

A thrill for Polish children at all stops of week's tour was the piping of Charles Bogart in full Argyle and Sutherland Highlander regalia.

There were reunions of ex-POWs with Polish families "whose courage and generosity had enabled them to survive the grim years," Fay reports from his base in Salonica, Greece.

Ex-POWs talked with some wonder about how they survived it all. Fay quotes poet Rayner:

*"Welded by a need just to survive,
until that day when we would
come alive."*

RFE and Poles' Release

Marking 30th anniversary of the release of more than 100,000 Soviet-held prisoners, Carl Koch tells of little known role played by Radio Free Europe in bringing it about.

Then West German Chancellor Conrad Adenauer in 1955 achieved release of 10,000 German POWs from Siberian prison camps on condition none be interrogated about their internment.

West German media reported their return with "nary a word about the conditions of where they had been held," writes Koch, who was RFE bureau chief in Munich at the time.

But the names and addresses of those released were published and RFE staffers mailed 3,900 letters asking information on Siberia internees still held, getting amazing 95 percent response and 10,000 names.

Despite Russian complaints it breached the deal with Adenauer, Koch says RFE's Polish Broadcast Desk chief Jan Nowak mounted saturation midnight broadcasts identifying Poles in Soviet custody which significantly contributed to pressure that brought Soviet release of 100,000.

M.D. Morris drops one-liner: "For those who wondered why he's not around much any more, M. D. Morris and family have removed to 1311 E. State St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850."

Items

Free Press Notes

OPC Free Press Committee Chairman Norman Schorr advises club will compile annual report on journalists imprisoned abroad in time for annual awards dinner. Members are asked to keep watch for items on such jailings and pass them along.

On Related Fronts

SDX/SJP proposes amendments to Freedom of Information Act to expedite public access to government information under the Act.

Ronald Reagan on National Newspaper Week says theme "Freedom of the Press is Everybody's Freedom," his words: "drives home the fact that we are all beneficiaries of this fundamental concept."

Pretoria bans Newsweek issue, expels veteran correspondent Ray Wilkinson, for what it calls distortions because it objected to report on current unrest, interviews with opponents of current regime.

India drops legal proceedings against AP reporter Brahma Chellaney for reports that gave higher death toll than government figures in government raid on Sikh's Amritsar temple.

Foreign Stringers Sought

The Washington Times Foreign Service is seeking stringers in major news capitals of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. OPCer Edward Neilan, foreign editor at the Times, writes, "We have full-time bureaus in London, Geneva, Cyprus, Manila, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Central America. Now we seek qualified stringers in other major news points." Contact Neilan by mail, The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Tales of UP

Ex-Unipressers will want to get it, humorist Carl Lundquist's new book of all his wild tales of nearly 20 years with the grand old UP—1937-57. Lundquist's United We Stood (Todd & Honeywell, \$12.50 hardcover), features 57 yarns on the likes of Casey Stengel, Walter Cronkite, Joe DiMaggio, Bob Considine, Albert Einstein, strippers, beauty queens and the Duke of Windsor.

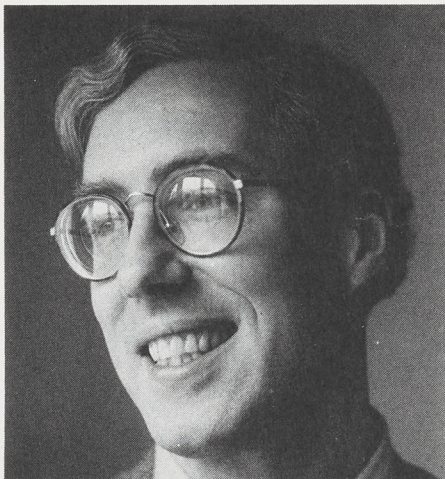
Kudo Reviews for Olds

Elizabeth Fagg Olds sends stack of praise-full reviews of her new book, Women of the Four Winds (Houghton Mifflin, \$8.95; hardcover \$17.95) on four turn-of-the-century female adventurers. Publisher's Weekly: "Great stuff, indeed, a headlong read."

Reminder

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the preceding month for publication the following month.

Capa—



Richard Whelan

From Page 1

Whelan interviewed some 150 people over four years to produce the biography. He believes the resulting chronicle reveals Capa as personally warm, generous, brave, resourceful, irresistible to women but often confused about his own vocation. A key to his tremendous success in producing war photos that brought great public response, Whelan says, was his "intense sympathy for the plight of people caught up in war."

The book of photographs includes many previously unpublished pictures and reveals unsuspected aspects of his work.

Whelan and Cornell Capa, who is director of the International Center of Photography, were also co-curators of a Robert Capa exhibition which ran through Nov. 10 at the IPC.

OPC Book Night, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19, with Richard Whelan and Cornell Capa, Bogart Room, Members Free, Guests \$4, Cash Bar, Reserve with Mary Novick, 679-9650.

NEW APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Carol Lof—Publisher, Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering Inc.
Sponsors: *Paul R. Mosher—James A. Catalano*

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Edward Griffith—Director, Community Relations, Boston Herald
Sponsors: *Lester Zwick—Dwight E. Sargent*

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Patricia Waters—Free Lance Writer
Sponsors: *Patrick Carr—Bonita Wagner*

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REINSTATEMENTS

ACTIVE NON-RESIDENT

Maria Ueda

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

Edmund Rhodes

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